



Port and Borough of King's Lynn

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1948


BY

J. HAMILTON

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

WITH WHICH IS INCLUDED THE

Annual Report of the
Senior Sanitary Inspector
Mr. H. G. COBBOLD, M.S.I.A.



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BOROUGH OF KING'S LYNN

Health and Port Health Committee

November, 1948

Chairman : Alderman Mrs. A. M. FISHER.

Alderman J. HARWOOD CATLEUGH, O.B.E., J.P.

„ J. W. RABY, J.P.

Councillor E. A. ANDERSON.

„ W. BAKER.

„ E. M. BENEFER.

„ T. W. BLOMFIELD.

„ J. J. BONE.

„ H. W. DAWSON.

„ C. A. FREESTONE, M.B.E.

„ O. R. JERMYN, J.P.

„ J. LEWIN, F.R.C.S., J.P.

„ W. J. PANTON.

„ R. A. RAYNER.

„ J. SEAMAN.

„ P. J. WEBB, J.P.

BOROUGH OF KING'S LYNN

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

A. Full-time.

Medical Officer of Health and Port Medical Officer of Health
(and Assistant School Medical Officer, Norfolk County
Council) :—

K. F. ALFORD, M.B., Ch., B., D.P.H., appointed 5th July,
1948.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :—

H. G. COBBOLD, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :—

H. F. ROBINSON, M.S.I.A., A.R.San. I. (Resigned 28th
August, 1948).

* Vaccination Officer :—

G. H. J. CHAMBERLAIN.

† Health Visitor :—

Miss S. M. LILLEY, S.R.N., R.S.I.

B. Part-time.

* Medical Officer of Health and Port Medical Officer of Health,
and Assistant School Medical Officer (Norfolk County
Council) :—

JAMES W. McINTOSH, B.Sc., (Public Health), M.B.,
F.R.C.S.E.

* Clinical Tuberculosis Officer (Norfolk County Council) :—

H. B. HODSON, M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

* Orthopaedic Surgeon (Norfolk County Council) :—

H. A. BRITTAIN, M.A., M.Ch., F.R.C.S.

* Venereal Diseases (Norfolk County Council) :—

JAMES W. McINTOSH, B.Sc., (Public Health), M.B.,
F.R.C.S.E.

* Consultant Medical Officers under the Midwives Act :—
J. O. HARRISON, M.B., D.OBST.R.C.O.G., F.R.C.S.
J. LEWIN, M.B., B.Sc., F.R.C.S.

* Ophthalmic Surgeon :—
S. T. PARKER, M.B., Ch.B., L.R.C.P., F.R.C.S.

* Poor Law Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator :—
M. CHADWICK, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Veterinary Surgeon :—
H. C. SWANN, M.R.C.V.S.

Public Analyst :—
S. GREENBURGH, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

† Health Visitors :—
Mrs. F. HOWES, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.F.N.
Mrs. B. M. GRAY, C.M.B.
Mrs. E. M. PEACH (resigned 26th January, 1948).

* Appointment lapsed or provision for the services became the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board on 5th July, 1948.

† Transferred to the employment of the Local Health Authority—Norfolk County Council—on 5th July, 1948.

To the Chairman and Members
OF THE
Health and Port Health Committee
of King's Lynn

*Public Health Department,
3, King Street,
King's Lynn.*

JUNE, 1948.

Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration the Annual Report for the year 1948.

The general health of the Borough was good. There was no serious outbreak of Infectious Disease.

When the designated Local Health Authority—the Norfolk County Council—assumed its duties in the Borough on 5th July, 1948, it acquired a long established, and efficient organisation for the care of mothers and young children, health visiting, domestic help., etc.

The Borough, with Freebridge Lynn Rural District, became Area No. 9 of the areas into which the County had been divided for the administration of the National Health Services Act by the Local Health Authority, the Norfolk County Council. The Corporation generously provided temporary office accommodation in its Public Health Department premises for the staff of the new Area.

Dr. K. F. Alford became the first full-time Medical Officer of Health and Port Medical Officer of Health.

Before proceeding to the detailed matter of the report :—

(a) I repeat the anxiety expressed in previous reports about insufficient reservoir provision for the water supply.

(b) I consider it appropriate to pay tribute to the great services to the community by those ladies of King's Lynn who, over many years, were mainly responsible for the Borough's flourishing Child Welfare Service.

Maternal Mortality

There were 561 confinements in the Borough during the year. 431 of these concerned women normally resident in the town. No deaths were registered as caused by, or associated with, pregnancy or labour. Over the last eleven years there have been 5142 confinements, with only three maternal deaths. Resulting from them, a maternal mortality of 0.508 per 1,000, less than half the maternal mortality rate for the whole country.

Infantile Mortality

There were 16 deaths among children under one year, 12 of them being those of children of one month, or less than that age. The infantile mortality rate was 34.40 per 1,000 live births. The rate for the whole country was 34 per 1,000.

Causes of infant deaths up to the age of one month :—

- 3 Premature
- 1 Anencephaly
- 3 Atelectasis
- 1 Congenital heart disease
- 2 Cerebral haemorrhage
- 1 Congenital debility
- 1 Asphyxia

Causes of death from one month to one year :—

- 1 Congenital heart disease
- 1 Pneumonia
- 1 Intussusception
- 1 Enlarged Thymus Gland

Some of the deaths, particularly those occurring shortly after birth, were from causes that should be preventable, and now that medical services are available freely to all, ought to appear less frequently as the cause of loss of infant life.

It is good to note that no deaths were attributed to digestive diseases (diarrhoea and enteritis), due mainly to feeding faults.

General Standard of Cleanliness

Taking the results of School Surveys as indices of the general conditions, verminous conditions were relatively uncommon. Ringworm and scabies rarely occurred.

Illegitimate Children

There were 33 illegitimate children born during the year. The Health Visitors paid special visits to these children until

5th July, 1948, when their welfare became the care of a Children's Officer appointed by the County Council.

There were two deaths of illegitimate children under 1 year of age. One died of Prematurity, the other of Pneumonia.

Premature Infants

Arrangements were the same as in previous years. There were 12 premature infants. Three of these died.

Day Nursery

On 5th July, 1948 this became a Day Nursery School, controlled by the County Council, for children from two to five years old. Until then, the average Day Nursery attendance was 52. Since the Day Nursery School started the average daily attendance has been 44.

Extracts from Vital Statistics (from Registrar General) for 1948.

Population 25,510				
	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	
Live Legitimate	214	218	432	Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population 18.22.
Births Illegitimate	16	17	33	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	230	235	465	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	
Still Legitimate	10	8	18	Rate of 41.25 per 1,000 total births.
Births Illegitimate	1	1	2	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	11	9	20	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	
Deaths	144	124	268	Death Rate 10.50 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

The Live Birth Rate for England and Wales was 17.9 per 1,000 total population and for the 148 smaller towns (resident population 25,000—50,000) it was 19.2 per 1,000 population.

The Death Rate for England and Wales was 10.8 per 1,000 total population, and for the 148 smaller towns 10.7 per 1,000 population.

The Maternity Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 1.10 per 1,000 total births.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 34 per 1,000 live births, and 32 per 1,000 live births for the 148 smaller towns.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1.—(a) Laboratory Facilities

No change.

(b) Ambulance Facilities

Before 5th July, 1948 a Red Cross Ambulance, and a special ambulance for the carriage of Infectious Cases, were available for use in the Borough. Since 5th July, 1948, by arrangement with the County Council, the Red Cross Society still provided ambulances for the conveyance of non-infectious cases, three ambulance cars being stationed in the town for the use of the Borough and Freebridge Lynn Rural District. The Infectious Diseases Ambulance since the 5th July, 1948 has been maintained by the County Council for the use of King's Lynn and Freebridge Lynn. It is very old.

The Voluntary Car Service had 16 cars available in King's Lynn.

(c) Home Nursing

The two District Nurses stationed in the town became part of the Home Nursing Service operated for the Local Health Authority—the County Council—by the Norfolk Nursing Federation and District Nursing Association.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centres at St. James', Gaywood and West Lynn, came under the control of the County Council on 5th July, 1948, while the Orthopaedic, Venereal Diseases, and Tuberculosis Clinics became part of the Regional Hospital Board's arrangements for specialist services.

(e) Hospitals

No change in the provision of accommodation.

The control of the Infectious Diseases Hospital passed to the Regional Hospital Board.

The premises designated—"the Smallpox Hospital"—are unfit for the reception of any kind of case requiring hospital treatment.

(f) Home Help Service

Until 5th July, 1948 the Corporation employed two full-time and five occasional Home Helps. During that time they served 28 Maternity Cases and 13 cases of sickness.

From 5th July, 1948, 28 maternity cases and 9 cases of illness, had their homes looked after by the Home Helps, who are now part of the County Domestic Help Service.

At the end of the year there were 4 full-time, 3 temporary and 3 occasional Home Helps employed.

2.—(i) Midwifery and Maternity Services

The 4 Midwives practising in the Borough became part of the Local Health Authority's Maternity Service. The provision of maternity beds in Institutions remained the same, as the new Maternity Block at the West Norfolk & King's Lynn Hospital had not been completed.

The number of King's Lynn mothers admitted to Stow Maternity Home for confinement was 15, to the West Norfolk & King's Lynn Hospital 22, and to St. James' Hospital 12.

There are four Registered Nursing Homes, providing a total of ten beds.

(ii) Institutional Provision for Mothers and Children

No change.

(iii) Health Visitors

At 5th July, 1948, one full-time and one part-time Health Visitor transferred to the Health Visiting Service of the County Council. Details of the Health Visitors' work are appended :—

Visits to children under one year—first visits	....	474
Visits to children under one year—total visits	....	1874
Visits to children one to five years—total visits	....	2293
Visits to Expectant Mothers	....	62
Post-Natal Visits	....	130

Number of Foster-Mothers—9

Number of Foster Children—10

Number of Visits paid—50

Infant Welfare Clinics

(a) St. James' (twice weekly) Attendances	7,286
(b) Gaywood (once fortnightly) Attendances	1,105
(c) West Lynn (once fortnightly) Attendances	446
	<hr/>
TOTAL	8,837
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Diphtheria immunisation was carried out at the Clinics.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics

Held once weekly at St. James' Clinic. There were 204 ante-natal attendances.

(iv) Child Life Protection

From 5th July, 1948, work previously done by the Health Visitors was carried out by the newly appointed Children's Officer.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1.—Water

Counties Laboratories,
Redwell Street,
Norwich.

25th April, 1949.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER

2 Samples collected from taps on 20th April, 1949.

Colonies per ml. on agar at 37°C.	Coliform Organisms. McConkey 2 days at 37°C.
Tap at South Wootton	Absent in mil.
1	100
Tap at Gayton Waterworks	
None	100
Remarks : A bacteriological quality of the highest standard.	
(Signed) W. LINCOLNE SUTTON, F.R.I.C.	

2.—Rivers and Streams

No change.

3.—Public Cleansing

No change.

Drainage

No change since last report.

Cattle Market

No change since last report.

Abattoir

No public abattoir is provided.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The following is a summary of the work done during the year under the various Public Health and Housing Acts, viz :—

701 Special complaints and Special visits made.

199 Informal notices and intimations served.

34 Statutory notices served.

Details :—

Water closet cisterns repaired and renewed	....	....	33
Drains re-laid or repaired	....	....	29
Drains cleared	....	....	33
Inspection Chambers provided	....	....	6
Suitable ashbins provided	....	....	20
Dampness of walls remedied	....	....	21
Ceiling plaster repaired	....	....	46
Walls repaired	....	....	16
Miscellaneous defects	....	....	42
Yards concreted	....	....	4
Soil pipes provided	....	....	4
Pail closets abolished and new water closets and drains provided	....	....	26
Workroom cleansed and lime-washed	....	....	1
Flush pipe joints repaired	....	....	7
Stair treads and risers repaired	....	....	10
Ventilation provided to living room	....	....	1
W.C. roofs repaired	....	....	8
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	....	....	12
W.C. doors repaired	....	....	5
Stoves repaired or renewed	....	....	11
House drains connected to sewer	....	....	11
Chimneys repaired	....	....	6
Windows repaired, renewed or made to open	....	....	12
Sashcords renewed	....	....	17
Eaves gutters provided and fixed	....	....	25
Wallplaster repaired	....	....	30
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	....	....	3
Coppers repaired or renewed	....	....	3
New sinks provided	....	....	3
Roofs repaired or renewed	....	....	52
Floorboards repaired or renewed	....	....	36
New W.C.'s provided	....	....	6
Doors repaired or renewed	....	....	4
W.C. seats repaired or renewed	....	....	3
W.C. pans renewed	....	....	12
Accumulations of manure and refuse removed	....	....	4
Pigsty demolished	....	....	1
Pigsty constructed	....	....	1

Houses let in Lodgings

No change.

Common Lodging Houses

The two common lodging houses were regularly visited and found to be conducted in a satisfactory manner.

Meetings of Owners and Tradesmen

115 meetings were held with regard to defective houses, drains., etc.

House Drains

During the year 131 drains were tested and examined. In all cases where defects were found, notices were served on the owners concerned. 26 pail closets were abolished and new water closets provided, together with all necessary fittings, and drainage connected to the main sewer. The Corporation paid 50% of the cost in accordance with Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919

Two ratcatchers have been at work throughout the year with satisfactory results. Sewers, Corporation property, Alms-houses. Piggeries, Docks, Ships., etc., private as well as business premises, have been regularly treated. Constant treatment of the Corporation refuse tips is necessary to ensure that they do not become re-infested.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Fleas

Number of house rooms disinfected (including Council and private houses) 46

Schools

No change.

HOUSING

Report of Housing Manager

The housing problem in King's Lynn continues to give cause for anxiety. The position is acute, and in spite of every effort on the part of the Council there would not appear to be any great chance of material improvement for years to come. The factors contributing to the special problem in the Borough are as follows :—

The large number of old and dilapidated houses that saw their best day long before the commencement of the war and which suffered a rapid decline towards uninhabitability during the war when little effort could be made to keep the fabrics sound. Hundreds of families now reside in such dwellings to the detriment of health, and citizenship.

The large number of marriages that have taken place since 1939, creating additional family units requiring separate accommodation. (This particular problem, of course, relates to all parts of the United Kingdom).

The very small number of requisitioned properties.

The shortage of manpower in the building trade available for house building in King's Lynn. There have been vacancies for building trade operatives unfilled by the Employment Exchange over a long period of time. These factors taken together cause a problem as difficult as any in the land.

The current figures for re-housing since 1946 are given below :

324 Families to post-war and pre-war Municipal houses.

24 Families to requisitioned properties or old properties owned by the Corporation.

The current statistics for the applicants register is as follows :—

727 Families without homes at all.

370 Families living in dilapidated houses, or in old fashioned houses without modern conveniences.

20 Families who have homes in other parts of the country, but where the main wage earner has work in King's Lynn.

Approximately one-third of these families are on the Council's priority list for re-housing; the rate of re-housing appears to average just over 100 families per annum and the number of new applicants registered yearly is at least double this figure.

The number of new houses and flats completed from June, 1948 to May, 1949 is as follows :—

26 Permanent prefabricated 3 bedroom parlour houses—Airey type.

44 Three-bedroom parlour houses—traditional type.

4 Two-bedroom flats—traditional type.

74

A further 5 properties have been requisitioned and 1 house has been de-requisitioned.

Two old properties have been purchased for the purpose of a further street widening scheme. These two cottages were occupied at the time of purchase. One old property has been closed, as it is unfit for human habitation.

HOUSING STATISTICS

1.—Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year :—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	378
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	709
(2) (a)	Number of dwellinghouses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925.	206
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	566

2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	158
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which which notices were served requiring repairs	24
(2)	Number of such dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By Owners	8
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(b)	Proceedings by Public Health Acts :	
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	12

- | | | |
|---|---|------|
| (2) | Number of such dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices : | |
| (a) | By Owners | 9 |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |
| (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 : | | |
| (1) | Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | Nil. |
| (2) | Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | Nil. |
| (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 : | | |
| (1) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | Nil. |
| (2) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit | Nil. |

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat and other Food

No change. Special attention was paid during the year to the cleanliness of Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens.

Slaughter-house

559 visits were made to the Slaughterhouse during the year.

Markets

No change. 42 visits were made to Markets during the year.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

During the year 57 samples of Food and Drugs were submitted for analysis. (See Table on page 15).

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food

This was carried out by S. Greenburgh, Esq., Ph.D., B.Sc., F.R.I.C., Public Analyst, Tennison Road, Cambridge.

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD

Article	Samples Taken		Samples Unsatisfactory	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
ARROWROOT ...	—	1	—	—
ASPIRIN TABLETS ...	—	1	—	—
BAKING POWDER ...	—	6	—	—
BARLEY FLOUR ...	—	1	—	—
CHEESE-CAKE MIXTURE ...	—	1	—	—
COOKING FAT ...	—	1	—	—
CINNAMON ...	—	1	—	—
CUSTARD POWDER ...	—	1	—	—
EFFERVESCENT POWDER ...	—	2	—	—
FISH PASTE ...	—	1	—	—
ICE CREAM ...	8	—	—	—
JAM and MARMALADE ...	—	5	—	—
MUSTARD ...	—	1	—	—
NEW MILK ...	32	—	—	—
SAUSAGES, SAUSAGE MEAT, &c. ...	6	—	—	—
TOTALS	46	22	—	—

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) 	2294	691	1719	4888	410
Number inspected 	2294	691	1719	4888	410
All diseases except Tuberculosis:—					
Whole carcasses condemned 	4	13	13	13	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned 	904	234	4	59	48
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis 	39.58%	35.75%	0.99%	1.47%	13.41%
Tuberculosis only:—					
Whole carcasses condemned 	12	28	1	—	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned 	450	258	1	—	36
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis 	20.14%	41.39%	0.12%	—	10.0%

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Neither Smallpox nor Diphtheria was reported.

There were seventeen cases of Scarlet Fever. Eight of these were school children. Eight cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Enquiries were made with reference to all cases of Infectious Disease notified.

397 rooms were disinfected, and 6,929 articles were disinfected at the steam disinfectoir.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Immunisation was carried out at the Welfare Centres and by private doctors. 379 children under 5 years of age and 15 children between 5 and 15 years were immunised.

13 children had “reinforcing injections”.

Approximately 48.86% of the children under 5 years, and 81.34% of the school children have been immunised against Diphtheria.

ANALYSIS OF DIPHTHERIA 1928-1948

	Notifica- tions.	Under One.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	Deaths
1928	.... 221	—	25	154	28	14	—	12
1929	.... 80	—	14	51	11	33	1	8
1930	.... 86	—	16	62	3	3	2	10
1931	.... 28	7	12	4	3	2	2	4
1932	.... 19	—	4	9	3	3	—	2
1933	.... 3	—	1	2	—	—	—	1
1934	.... 5	—	1	3	—	1	—	2
1935	.... 12	—	2	6	2	1	1	1
1936	.... 11	—	2	7	1	1	—	1
1937	.... 16	—	2	8	2	4	—	—
1938	.... 44	—	7	31	—	2	—	—
1939	.... 15	—	2	13	—	—	—	—
1940	.... 33	—	9	21	2	1	—	3
1941	.... 23	1	5	14	1	2	—	—
1942	.... 7	—	3	4	—	—	—	—
1943	.... 16	—	3	8	4	1	—	1
1944	.... 8	—	1	4	3	—	—	—
1945	.... 4	—	1	3	—	—	—	—
1946 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1947	.... 2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
1948 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

16 Cases were admitted to the Infectious Disease Hospital during 1948, viz.,—

8 cases of scarlet fever
2 cases of measles
2 cases of mumps
1 case of whooping cough
2 cases of gonorrhoea
1 case of syphilis

Source of Water Supply

No change.

Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933

No change.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE **NOTIFIED DURING 1948**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases Notified in King's Lynn.									
	At all ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	17	—	6	8	2	1	—	—	8	—
Pneumonia	42	4	7	7	3	10	7	4	—	9
Whooping Cough	54	5	24	25	—	—	—	—	1	—
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	19	—	—	5	3	6	4	1	—	8
Tuberculosis (other forms)	3	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	1
Chicken Pox	67	—	14	52	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	80	2	40	34	4	—	—	—	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jaundice	41	—	7	24	3	5	1	1	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	328	14	99	157	17	23	12	6	11	18

